

SHRI. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Minister and pursue the same point again that he has just now made while answering to my question on Rural Electrification V Various State Governments are expected to spend funds on the rural electrification and in (his respect your colleague here also suggested that about a thousand crores of rupees have been provided in the Fifth Plan.

I want to know when there is basic shortage of funds for generation of basic electricity because of various reasons—implementation programme is slow, money is not available and so on—if it is a fact that the State Government proposals are not being entertained by the nationalised banks for supply of funds to the rural electric co-ops. Will your Ministry consider that at least the nationalised banks will find funds for the rural electric co-ops, which are nicely working in the rural areas ?

The other point which you have mentioned is that it will be high cost if they had captive units. Perhaps instead of having no electricity at all even high cost electricity may be welcome for the rural people for growing cash crops and getting more yield of cereal and other crops. So I want to know whether this solution will be explored.

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD: This is the same supplementary put by the hon. Member just a few minutes back and my hon. colleague has given a reply to that question. As far as this suggestion is concerned, whatever comes from the State Governments or the State Electricity Boards we will certainly have a second look at this again.

Distribution of Kerosene from Petrol Pumps

♦160. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the deficiencies in the policy of distribution of kerosene from petrol pumps; and;

(b) if so, what further changes Government propose to make the distribution of kerosene more effective ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This facility is in addition to the already existing net-work of distribution of kerosene oil through agents and the general public has welcomed this additional facility. A close watch is however being kept on the system and any changes that may be necessary in its working will be made in due course.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Distribution of kerosene through petrol pumps may be of advantage for the people living in the urban areas. But what are the facilities with regard to the supply of kerosene to the rural sector ? Is there any scheme so that the rural people can get their supply of kerosene from certain authorised shops ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: There is already a well-established distribution system in the rural areas set up by the Supply Department of the State Governments and that system has been there for a long time and it is functioning fairly satisfactorily.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY About two years ago on the floor of Parliament the Finance Minister said that he felt that the price of kerosene should be raised so that it would discourage the mixing of kerosene with petrol. Now the price differential between petrol and kerosene has increased considerably. And further the petrol pumps have been authorised to sell kerosene now. What steps have the Government taken to see that adulteration does not take place ? And does the Government again propose to raise the price of kerosene—not that I am in support of that policy—so as to discourage this adulteration

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : We are establishing facilities for easy detection of any adulteration of motor spirit with kerosene oil. We have pasted boards at various petrol pumps by which any doubt can be cleared immediately wherever there is suspicion of adulteration. We have given some very easy methods of detecting such adulteration. We also propose to colour the kerosene oil with

blue dye. It will take another five to six months. We will dye the kerosene oil in blue dye so that any adulteration would be visually apparent, so that it could be seen with the naked eye. These are the steps we are taking. We have no intention for the time being of raising the price of kerosene oil.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : The hon. Minister just now stated that colouring of kerosene will discourage adulteration. Now much progress has been made in colouring kerosene so that it cannot be mixed with petrol ? May I know whether all the petrol pumps have been given this right to distribute to kerosene or is it confined only to a few places ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : For colouring kerosene a suitable dye has to be evolved and as I said in my reply earlier it will take about five or six months. At present there are about 356 petrol pumps which are also distributing kerosene oil. The system is working fairly satisfactorily and we propose to extend the number of such distribution centres.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: The question deals with the distribution of kerosene oil, I want to know what quantum of kerosene has been allotted to each State in view of the shortage of power and may I know whether that quantity of kerosene is going to be sold through the fair price shops as well as in the black market ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : We believe in selling kerosene through fair price shops, through our own distribution agencies. There have been some reports that kerosene has been selling in the black market. We have requested the State Governments to take deterrent action. In some cases, they have done so and launched cases against them.

SHRI K. N. DHULAP : The hon. Minister has told the House that there is a good system for the supply of kerosene to the villages. There are Government approved shops in the villages, but it is no compulsory on the part of Government to supply them with foodgrains, kerosene and other essential commodities. Is the Government thinking of giving a certain quota of kerosene to the village shops

so that whatever quota goes to the State, a certain quota is allotted to the rural area ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : The Government is making the best efforts to make supplies and to have equitable distribution throughout the country, both in the urban and rural areas, subject to the availability of the product. Detailed distribution is done by the State Governments to the rural areas and they get their monthly quota depending on the total availability of Kerosene in the country.

SHRI R. K. PODDAR : The Government cannot ensure that quantity of kerosene oil in rural areas compared to the urban areas. Speaking about the efficient distribution system, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that for months together in the interior villages of Sikar district in Rajasthan no kerosene is there and the supplying shops are dry. So, Kerosene is selling there at Rs. 3 a litre.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : I take the information and I will pass it on to the state Government.

Water Resources in the Country

*161. DR. Z.A.AHMAD :

SHRI KRISHANKANT : SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : SHRI GURMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR : SHRI J. S. TILAK : SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : SHRI V. B. RAJU : SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI : SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI : SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT : DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of water available in this country on surface and underground;

(b) how much of this water is being utilised at present;

(c) what is the maximum percentage of water that can be utilised; and

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.